

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-06 ARA-06 CIAE-00

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NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9063

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T JAKARTA 8088

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, ID

SUBJECT: MULTINATIONAL NUCLEAR CENTERS: ASSESSMENT OF KEY ASIAN
COUNTRIES ATTITUDES TOWARD PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING

REF: A. STATE 154049 B. JAKARTA 5787 C. TOKYO 6642
D. TOKYO 6986 E. JAKARTA A-84 D. JAKARTA 7722

1. INDONESIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND ORGANIZATION (BATAN-NATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY) TO OPERATE IT BOTH ONLY IN THEIR INFANCY. GOI EXPECTS THAT BY YEAR 2000 ITS REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTRICITY WILL BE ABOUT 64 THOUSAND MEGAWATTS. GOI HOPES BETWEEN 25 AND 40 PER CENT OF THIS CAN BE SUPPLIED BY NUCLEAR REACTORS. IT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE OR TWO 500 OR 600 MEGAWATT REACTORS IN OPERATION BY 1985.

2. SINCE SITE FOR FIRST REACTOR OR REACTORS NOT YET EVEN CHOSEN OR FINAL DECISION MADE ON TYPE OF REACTOR AND NO PRELIMINARY CONTRACTS LET OR DRAFTED, AND GIVEN PRIMITIVE STAGE OF INDONESIA'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, HIGHLY DOUBTFUL FIRST ELECTRICITY PRODUCING REACTOR OR REACTORS COULD BE IN OPERATION BEFORE 1988 AT EARLIEST.

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3. TYPE OF REACTOR BATAN MOST FAVORING AT THIS TIME IS
HEAVY WATER REACTOR (HWR).

4. WE HAVE NEVER HEARD OR SEEN ANY INDICATION OF INDONESIAN
INTEREST IN A PLUTONIUM PROCESSING PLANT, EITHER ON PILOT
OR COMMERCIAL SCALE, AND DOUBT THAT THEIR THINKING HAS GONE
THAT FAR. SOME INTERESTED OFFICIALS, FOR EXAMPLE MR. ZEN,
ASSISTANT MINISTER OF RESEARCH, HAVE SPECULATED ABOUT BUILDING A
URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT IN INDONESIA. THEIR THINKING IS THAT THIS
COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EITHER THE CONSIDERABLE VOLUME OF
NATURAL GAS BELIEVED AVAILABLE TO INDONESIA OR THE LARGE
AMOUNTS OF ELECTRICITY TO BE SUPPLIED BY THE VERY LARGE-
SCALE ASAHAN HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT BEING PLANNED FOR
SUMATRA IN EITHER CASE ONLY PROVIDED THAT THERE ARE FOUND
TO BE SUFFICIENTLY LARGE DEPOSITS OF COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE
URANIUM IN INDONESIA. NOTE: ZEN WILL BE ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON
ON JULY 13 TO ATTEND THE MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON ENERGY
TECHNOLOGY. SEE REF. D.

5. WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF
COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE URANIUM IN INDONESIA WILL PROBABLY NOT BE
KNOWN FOR AT LEAST SEVERAL YEARS. CURRENTLY THE FRENCH ARE
CONDUCTING EXPLORATIONS IN KALIMANTAN FOR THIS PURPOSE.
SOME IMPATIENCE WITH FRENCH SLOWNESS IN THIS PROJECT HAS
BEEN EXPRESSED PRIVATELY BY GOI OFFICIALS.

6. ONE OF THE FACTORS AFFECTING INDONESIA'S DECISION ABOUT
WHAT TYPE OF REACTOR TO BUILD IS CONSIDERATION OF THE AVAIL-
ABILITY OF ENRICHED URANIUM. INDONESIA WOULD PREFER NOT TO BE
DEPENDENT ON OTHER COUNTRIES FOR ITS SUPPLY. PRESUMABLY
INDONESIA WOULD HAVE LESS HESITATION ABOUT BEING DEPENDENT
FOR SUPPLIES OF ENRICHED URANIUM ON A MULTINATIONAL NUCLEAR
CENTER IN ASIA AS OPPOSED TO BEING DEPENDENT ON A SUPER-
POWER OR WESTER NATION.

7. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT INDONESIA IS DOING ANY
SERIOUS PLANNING FOR OR THINKING ABOUT CONSTRUCTION OR
ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HOWEVER, WE DO KNOW THAT
THE IDEA HAS AT LEAST OCCURRED TO HANKAM (DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE AND SECURITY). IN THIS CONNECTION SEE REF E WHICH
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GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF A MEETING HELD AT HANKAM'S RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTER TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR POWER AND WHICH
NOTED THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS COULD BE A BYPRODUCT OF THE
DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER.
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